

Memo to file

February 9, 2007

From: Peter E. Kurtze
Administrator, Evaluation and Registration

Re: PG: 69-13
Magruder Spring

The property documented in the following MIHP form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Officer has neither concurred nor disagreed with those comments.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no _____

Property Name: Magruder Spring Inventory Number: PG: 69-13
Address: Magruder Spring Park, southeast of Cheverly Ave. City: Cheverly Zip Code: 20785
County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Washington East
Owner: Town of Cheverly Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
Tax Parcel Number: n/a Tax Map Number: n/a Tax Account ID Number: n/a
Project: Baltimore-Washington Maglev Amtrak Agency: MTA
Site visit by MHT staff: X no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property is located within a historic district? yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes X no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT State Historic Sites Inventory Form 1988; Prince George's County Historic Site Summary Sheet

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Magruder Spring is located in Magruder Spring Park, which lies southeast of Cheverly Avenue and north of MD Rt. 50. The spring itself is covered with a concrete cap, and lies on a steep, heavily overgrown, wooded hillside below Cheverly Avenue, above a cleared park lawn with a bench. The spring is not visible in warmer months, and physical access is hindered by the steep bank, undergrowth, and a muddy drainage area below it. Above the spring and park on the south side of Cheverly Avenue is a brick column with a commemorative plaque installed by the Town of Cheverly.

Prior to 1836, Magruder Spring was part of the extensive landholdings of Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the Navy and a resident of Georgetown. The spring stood on one of two early patents known as Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range. Stoddert had a plantation at this site with a stone dairy and a 20 x 20 foot residence, which probably housed an overseer or tenant farmer. The spring was a key water source for these and possibly other plantation buildings, which were erected approximately 1,500 feet to the north. During the War of 1812, the British invaded Maryland and marched across Prince George's County on 24 August 1814 to attack the city of Washington, DC. According to local tradition, the British soldiers stopped at Magruder Spring to refresh themselves as they approached the town of Bladensburg that morning. The march route traced on modern-day maps shows that the British troops passed approximately one mile west of the spring, with flanking parties ranging more than half a mile on each side of the main column. Thus, it is possible, though not conclusively proven, that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

Magruder Spring

Page 2

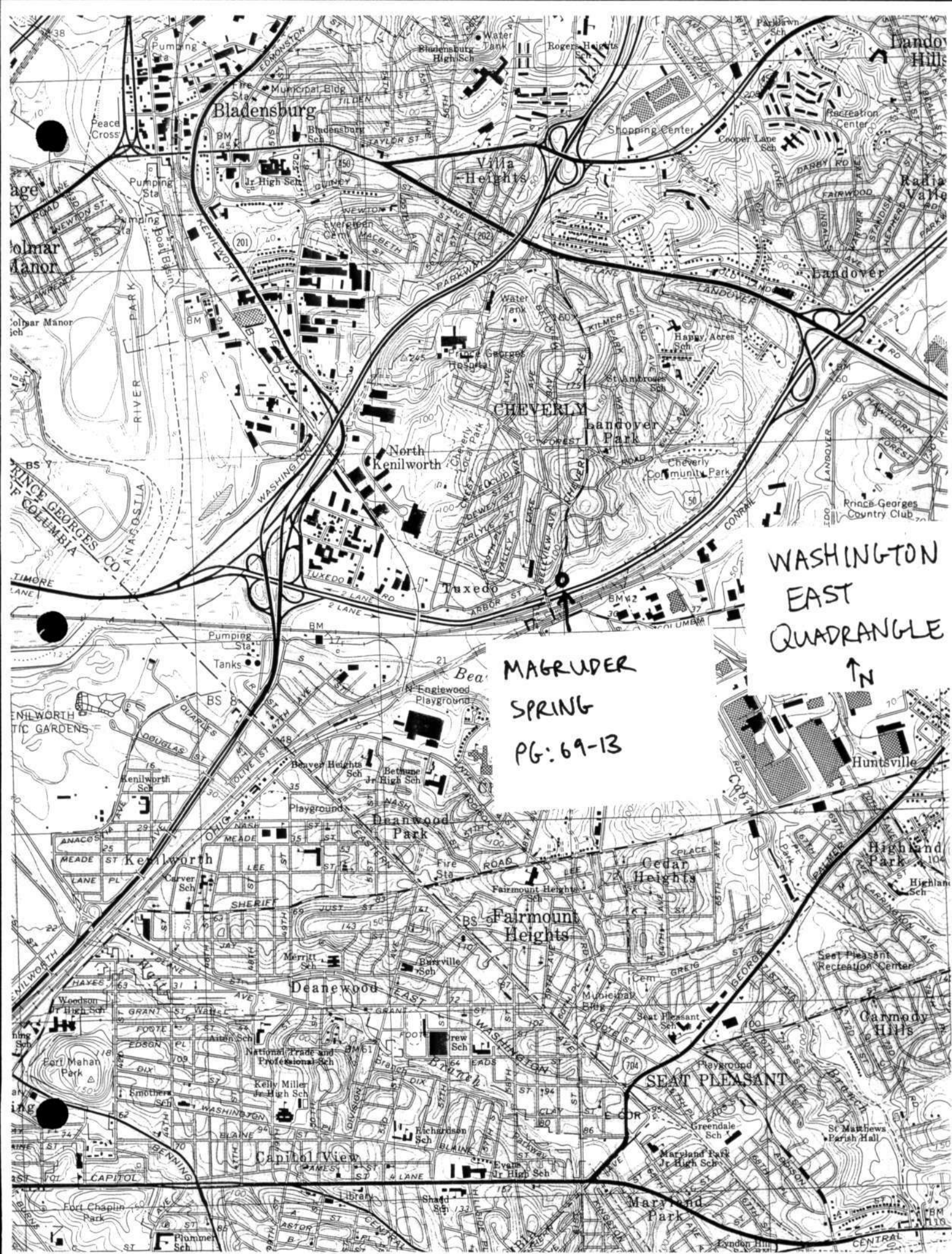
this visit did take place.

Beginning in August 1836, Stoddert's holdings on Hudson's Range and Crawford's Adventure were conveyed to 22-year-old Fielder Magruder, Jr., who named his plantation Mount Hope and built the current main house to encapsulate the overseer's house foundation. The plantation, which eventually totaled 207 acres, grew tobacco and as before, the Magruder Spring was its primary water source. Magruder died childless in 1888, and his widow died in 1894, leaving Mount Hope to her nephew George Beall Sheriff. The main house and dairy at Mount Hope are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Robert Marshall, a land developer from Ohio who was an owner of the Washington Suburban Realty Company, purchased 194 acres of Mount Hope from Sheriff's heirs in 1918. The company filed a plat the following year for Section 1 of a new suburb named Cheverly. On the plat, Magruder Spring was the centerpiece of a small park in a traffic circle. Although Section 1 did not develop as planned, the spring served as the town's first water source until the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission completed water mains to Cheverly in 1925. By that time, 34 houses had been completed. During its use in the 1920s, the spring was surrounded with a concrete basin, and was accessed by concrete steps from Cheverly Avenue. At some point, the hillside it stood on was regraded to accommodate Cheverly Avenue. The spring was later capped. The Town of Cheverly was incorporated in 1931 and the Magruder Spring site became town property. An early town ordinance established the parcels along the south side of Cheverly Avenue surrounding the spring as public parkland, and they were never developed. In 1965, the town formally purchased these eight lots and established Magruder Spring Park to protect the spring site in perpetuity.

Magruder Spring has clearly been associated with a prominent local family, the Magruders, as well as with the sustenance of a documented county tobacco plantation, and the development of a 1920s planned commuter suburb. Thus, it was part of typical local land use patterns from colonial settlement of the county into the suburbanization of the early 1900s. The spring has a somewhat more tenuous connection with the British invasion of 1814 and with Benjamin Stoddert, who was both a prominent local landowner and a nationally known government official. However, in terms of integrity, the spring in its present environment probably bears little resemblance to its pre-1900 appearance and setting, or to its accessible 1920s appearance. There is no surviving historic structure directly associated with the spring. Twentieth-century land grading, construction and removal of the concrete basin and steps used during the 1920s, the capping of the springhead, heavy vegetative undergrowth, and the construction of MD Rte. 50 immediately to the southeast have severely diminished the integrity of the setting. The archeological potential of the site has likely been compromised by ground disturbance related to the grading and landscaping of the immediate surrounds. Due to this lack of integrity, Magruder Spring is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Prepared by: Kate Farnham, John Milner AssociatesDate Prepared: 11/25/2003



WASHINGTON
EAST
QUADRANGLE



MAGRUDER
SPRING
PG: 69-13



PG: 69-13

Magruder Spring

Prince George's County, MD

K. Culhane

March 2002

MD SHPO

View to SE from Cheryl Ave.

#1 of 4



THE MAGRUDER SPRING
(THE CHEVERLY SPRING)

ACCORDING TO TRADITION, THE MAGRUDER SPRING WAS USED BY BRITISH TROOPS MARCHING ALONG RIVER ROAD TOWARD WASHINGTON, D.C. ON AUGUST 24, 1814, BEFORE THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG. THE SPRING IS LOCATED ABOUT 500 YARDS SOUTH OF MOUNT HOPE, THE FIELDER MAGRUDER PLANTATION HOUSE AND WAS PART OF THE PLANTATION. IT WAS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER FOR TOWN RESIDENTS IN THE EARLY TWENTIES. THE SITE WAS SET ASIDE AS TOWN PROPERTY AND REDESIGNATED THE CHEVERLY SPRING BY ROBERT MARSHALL, FOUNDER OF CHEVERLY, WHEN HE PLATTED SECTION 1 OF THE TOWN IN DECEMBER, 1918.

PG: 69-13

Magruder Spring

Prince George's County MD

K. Farnham

October 2003

MD SHPO

View to SE, detail of interpretive plaque on Cheryl Avenue

2 of 4



PG: 69-13

Magnuder Spring

Prince George's County, MD

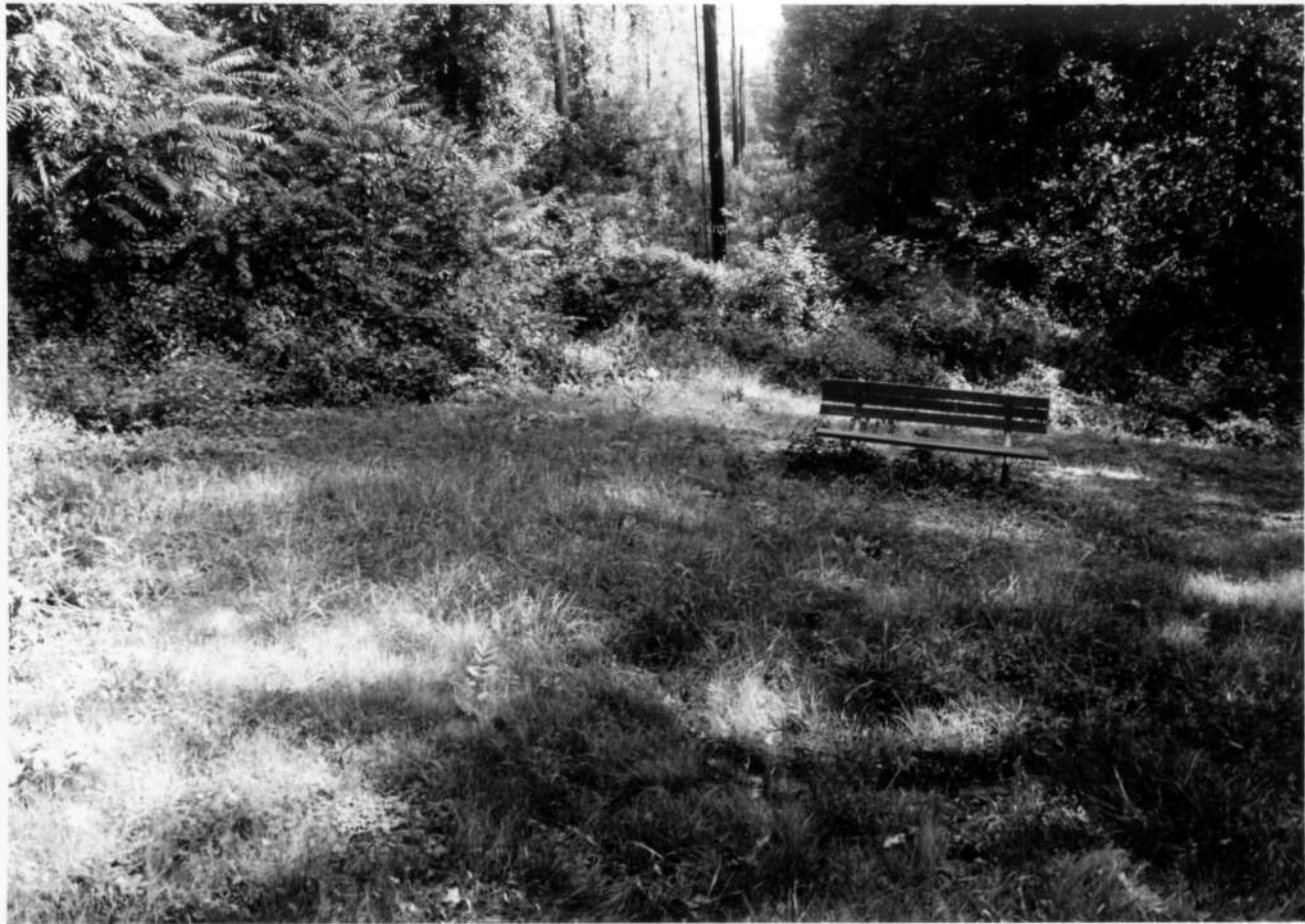
K. Farnham

October 2003

MD SHPO

View of foliage over spring site, looking NW

#3 of 4



PG: 69-13

Magruder Spring

Prince George's County, MD

K. Farnham

October 2003

MD SHPO

View of cleared park area below spring looking E

#4 of 4

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #69-13 Building Date: N.A.

Building Name: Magruder Spring

Location: Magruder Spring Park, east of Cheverly Avenue, north of
Columbia Park Road

Public/Park/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

The Magruder Spring is located east of Cheverly Avenue, and north of Columbia Park Road, on town-owned park land. It is located at the base of the hillside which was built up to support Cheverly Avenue. Several mature trees are growing in the bank on the north, west and south sides of the spring, including a tree protruding directly above it. The spring has been surrounded by a cylindrical concrete basin covered by a flat concrete top, at least since 1924 when it is depicted in a photograph. At the present time a drainage channel flows away from the spring to the northeast, toward Beaver Dam Branch. A grassy clearing in the level area on the east side of the spring contains a park bench.

Significance

The Magruder Spring is significant for its reoccurring importance in the evolving history of this area of Prince George's County bordering on the northeastern boundary of the District of Columbia. The spring functioned as the water source for Mt. Hope, P.G. #69-11, an antebellum tobacco plantation located in what is now the Town of Cheverly. The plantation house and outbuildings still stand and are a Prince George's County Historic Site, listed on the National Register. According to tradition, British soldiers under General Ross used the Magruder Spring on August 24, 1814 prior to the Battle of Bladensburg. Their use of the spring is a possibility, although it has not been substantiated through accounts of the day. The Spring also functioned in the 1920's as a water source for the newly platted and growing Town of Cheverly. It was featured prominently in original plats in a small park at the center of a traffic circle. Although this street pattern was never developed, the plats indicate the importance the spring held to the town's planners.

Acreage: .7 acres

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Magruder Spring

and/or common Cheverly Spring, Magruder Spring

2. Location

street & number Magruder Spring Park, Cheverly Avenue & Wayne Street ___ not for publication

city, town Cheverly ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Town of Cheverly

street & number 6401 Forest Road telephone no.: 773-8360

city, town Cheverly state and zip code Maryland 20785

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 137

street & number Main Street folio 466

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date July 1981 ___ federal ___ state ☒ county ___ localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. C.A.B. #4010

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Magruder Spring is located east of Cheverly Avenue, and north of Columbia Park Road, in town-owned park land. It is located at the base of the hillside which was built up to support the street. Several mature trees are growing in the bank on the north, west and south sides of the spring, including a tree protruding directly above it. The spring has been surrounded by a cylindrical concrete basin covered by a flat concrete top, at least since 1924 when it is depicted in a photograph. At the present time a drainage channel flows away from the spring to the northeast, toward Beaver Dam Branch. A grassy clearing in the level area on the east side of the spring contains a park bench.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Magruder Spring is significant for its reoccurring importance in the evolving history of the area of Prince George's County bordering on the northeastern boundary of the District of Columbia. The Spring's significance as a water source made it a local landmark during the 19th and early 20th century.

The Magruder spring served as the primary water source for Mt. Hope,¹ an antebellum tobacco plantation. Established by Fielder Magruder, Jr. (1814-1888) in the latter part of the 1830's, Mt. Hope was located on parts of two tracts, Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range.² The plantation house and adjoining dairy are a Prince George's County Historic Site (P.G. #69-11) and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Spring is located approximately 500 yards south of the plantation house.

When the British, under General Ross, invaded Maryland and marched on Washington in 1814, the Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range tracts were part of the extensive landholdings of Benjamin Stoddert, first U.S. Secretary of the Navy.³ Mt. Hope's stone dairy and a 20 x 20 foot section of the dwelling's cellar date to this period, suggesting the existence of an overseer or tenant farmer's house on the site.⁴ The British approached Bladensburg around mid-day, August 24, 1814, moving north on Addison Road then along the Anacostia River.⁵ According to eyewitness accounts the day was unbearably hot and the road dusty. The troops had to break for an hour around 10:00 in the morning to recover from the heat. They reached the outskirts of Bladensburg around noon.⁶ Tradition has it that the British soldiers drank from the Magruder Spring on their approach to Bladensburg that day. Locating the march route on present-day maps indicates that the British passed approximately one mile west of the spring. According to accounts of the day the troop column had parties ranging greater than a half mile on either side to detect signs of the enemy.⁷ It is possible but unsubstantiated that some troops stopped at the Magruder Spring.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

Section 8 Page 2

Fielder Magruder, Jr. died childless in 1888. After the death of his widow in 1894 the 207-acre Mt. Hope property was left to her nephew, George Beall Sheriff.⁸ Sheriff's heirs sold 194 acres to Robert Marshall, an Ohio land developer, and his Washington Suburban Realty Company in 1918.⁹ Marshall began the development of a garden suburb on the old Mt. Hope property. The plat of Section 1 of Cheverly, filed March 3, 1919, shows the Magruder Spring in a small park at the center of a traffic circle. The Magruder Spring served as the major source of water for the Cheverly Community until the establishment of water service by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in 1925.¹⁰ Cheverly was then a village of 34 houses. A photograph dating to 1924 depicts a town resident using the spring. In the photograph a flight of concrete stairs leads down to the spring which is contained in a concrete basin.

The street pattern of Section #1 of Cheverly was not developed as depicted on the 1919 plat.¹¹ The Magruder Spring became town property when the town incorporated in 1931. Town Ordinance #2 accepted and established as public parks the parcels along Cheverly Avenue designated as parks on the recorded subdivision plats of the Town. The eight lots surrounding the spring remained undeveloped and were purchased by the Town in 1965 to create a .7 acre park around the Magruder Spring.¹²

Notes

1 28 October 1977 conversation between Raymond Bellamy, Jr. and Lillie Magruder Mansfield, grandniece of Fielder Magruder, regarding use of the spring.

2 Prince George's County Land Records, AB 12:62-65, AB 11:215-16.

3 Prince George's County Land Records, AB 10:394-6; and Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., "The Town of Cheverly, Maryland - Plantation to Planned Community", March 1988, unpublished paper.

4 National Register Nomination for P.G. #69-11, Mt. Hope, Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., March 1978.

5 "Drive-It-Yourself Tour, The 1814 British Invasion Route", a pamphlet published by M-NCPPC, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

6 A Subaltern in America, Comprising the Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Baltimore, Washington, etc. Philadelphia, E.L. Carey and A. Hart, 1833, pg. 38-77.

7 Gleig, G.R., A Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Washington, Baltimore and New Orleans under Generals Ross, Pakenham and Lambert in the Years 1814 and 15 etc. Philadelphia, M. Carey and Sons, 1821, pp. 100, 101, 105 and 117.

8 JBP 1:174, 8 January 1890, will.

9 Land Records, 137:466, 1919. Tax records indicate that Marshall actually was in possession of the property in August 1918.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

Section 8 Page 3

10 Interview with Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., December 1988.

11 Plat #RNR 2:38

12 Land Records, 3202:419

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#69-13

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7 acres

Quadrangle name Washington East F

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date December 1988

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., CAB #4010

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title
Magruder Spring
P.G. #69-13

137:466
30 January 1919
Deed

George B. Sheriff, Jr. et. al., heirs of George B. Sheriff to Washington Suburban Realty Company. For \$10 grantors convey parts of Columbia, Hudson's Range and Crawford's Adventure, home of the late Fielder Magruder, 193 acres. Part of a tract devised to Sheriff under the will of Ann T.G. Magruder, 24 March 1894, JBP 1:174.

JBP 1:174
8 January 1890
Will

Ann T.G. Magruder desires to be buried beside husband, Fielder Magruder. To nephew George Beall Sheriff the tract willed to her by husband, on which he lived, 207 acres.

AB 12:62-65
22 November 1838
Indenture

Howerton Cross to Fielder Magruder. For \$3,900 grantor conveys Mitchell's Adventure, 75 acres. Also a part of Henderson's Range, 13 acres. Begins at fourth line of Fielder Magruder's part of Crawford's Adventure, south of road to Bladensburg.

AB 11:240
21 July 1837
Indenture

Henry and Lavinia Mitchell to Howerton Cross. For \$2,000 grantors convey Mitchell's Adventure, 129½ acres, begins on line of Hudson's Range.

AB 11:217-218
28 June 1837
Indenture

Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$269.50 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 13 acres.

AB 11:215-216
28 June 1837
Indenture

Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$421.25 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 21 acres.

AB 10:402-403
10 August 1836
Indenture

Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$300 grantors convey Hudson's Range, 21 acres.

AB 10:400-402
10 August 1836
Indenture

Joseph Kent and wife to Fielder Magruder. For \$700 grantors convey Crawford's Adventure, 13 acres.

AB 10:394-6
12 July 1836
Indenture

Richard T. Lowndes to Joseph Kent, land of Benjamin Stoddert of George Town, part of three tracts, Columbia, Crawford's Adventure and Hudson's Range, 190 acres.

SECTION ONE

CHEVERLY.

2/38

THESEY CERTIFY THAT THIS SUBDIVISION IS THAT REQUIRED BY THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1920, AND RECORDED FEB. 20, 1919, IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BOOK 1, PAGE 1, AND THAT THE SAME DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THAT THE SAME DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THAT THE SAME DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

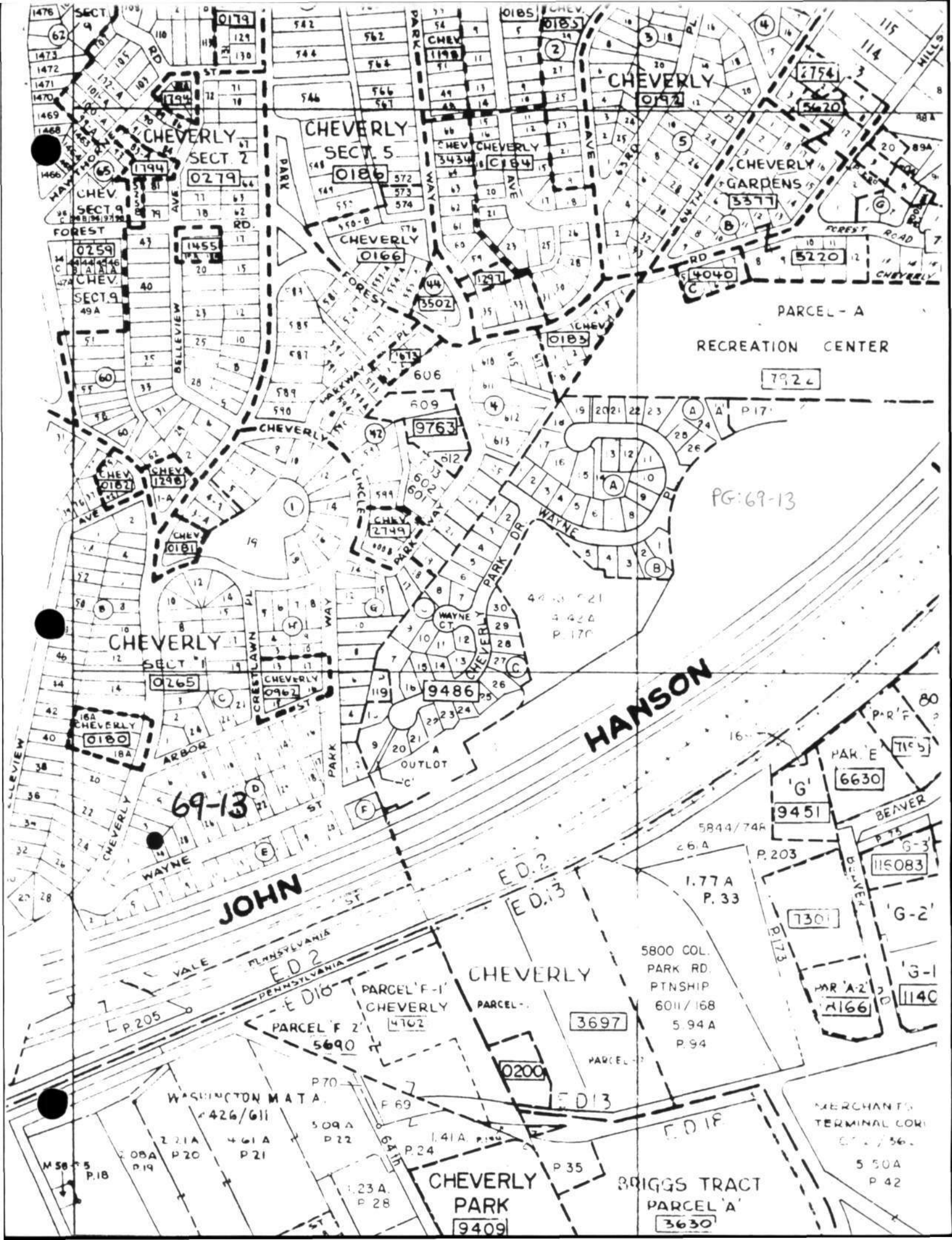
MARCH 3, 1919.

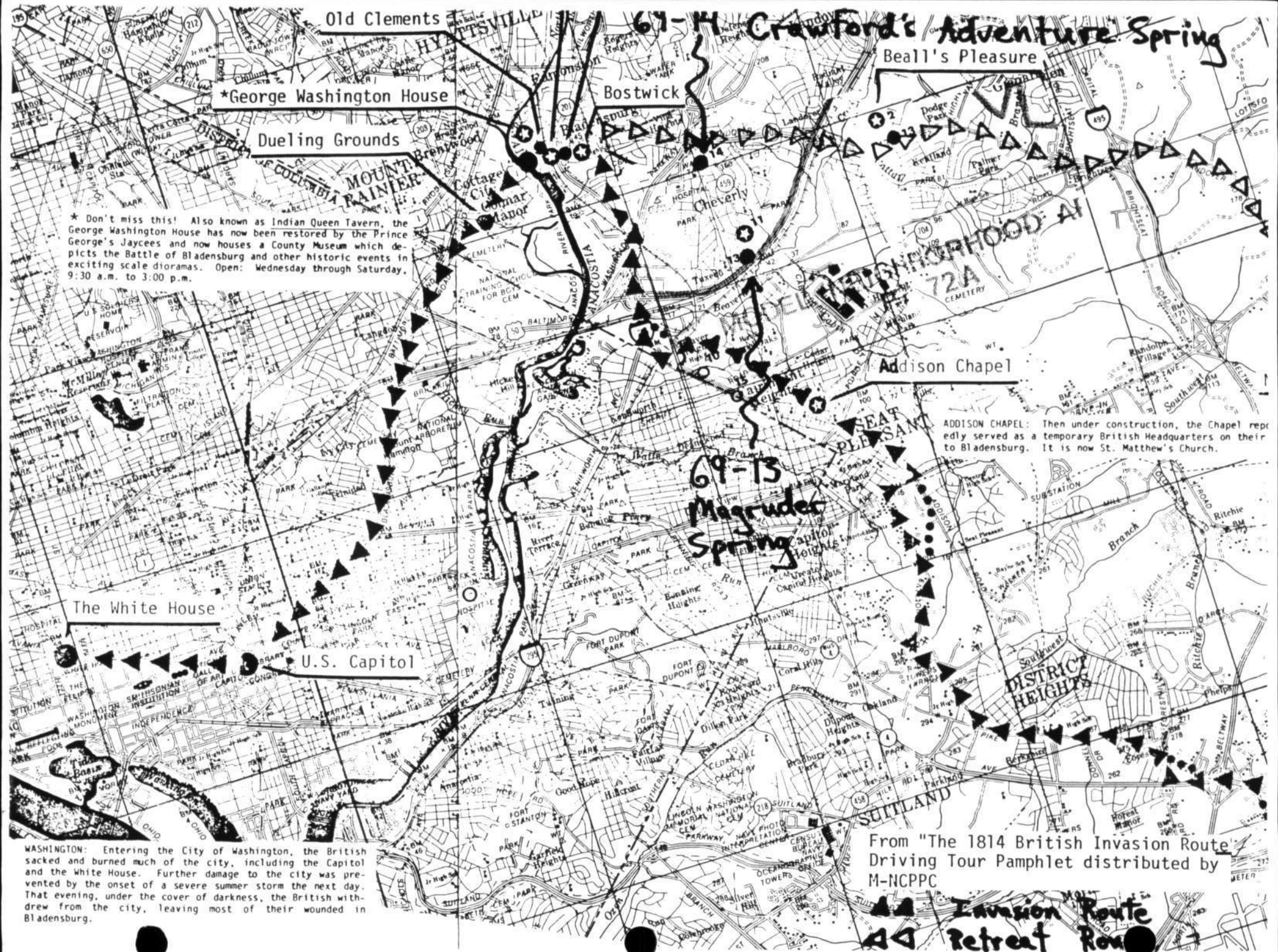
EDWARD L. LATIMER,
COUNTY SURVEYOR



PG: 69-13
Magruder Spring

EDWARD L. LATIMER,
COUNTY SURVEYOR,
HYATTSVILLE, MD.







PG# 69-13

Magruder Spring

Prince George's Co. MD

Marina King

Nov. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Cheverly